



NEWS RELEASE

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North Hollywood Man Sentenced for Cruelty to Dog

A 42-year-old man who abandoned a badly injured dog in a North Hollywood alley was sentenced today, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Phillip Stirling, Assistant Head Deputy of the Van Nuys office, said Carlos Efrain Duarte pleaded no contest to one felony count of cruelty to an animal and was immediately sentenced to two years in state prison in case LA076679.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Karen Nudell of the Van Nuys Branch ordered the sentence to be served as one year in local custody and one year under supervised release.

As conditions for the supervised release, Duarte will have to do 40 hours of Caltrans work, 52 hours of Alcoholics or Narcotics Anonymous classes, and attend court-approved animal cruelty and neglect counseling.

He also will have to attend psychological counseling while in custody and is prohibited from owning any cats or dogs for 10 years.

On July 4, 2013, the defendant drove into an alley near Laurel Canyon and Victory boulevards and left the dog, later named "Indy," there, the prosecutor said. A good Samaritan attempted to stop him and then took care of Indy after the defendant left, the prosecutor added.

There was no evidence to substantiate initial media reports of the dog being injured by fireworks.

Duarte was ordered to surrender in Department 112 on Sept. 30. A restitution hearing setting is scheduled for Dec. 3.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.